

### **REMARKS**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

#### **Change of Attorney Docket Number**

Applicant respectfully requests that the Attorney Docket Number be changed from "0007056-0202/P5945" to "16159/099001; P5945".

#### **Drawings**

Although the Examiner has accepted the drawings, Applicant hereby submits seven replacement drawing sheets for Figures 1-8, and asks these replacement drawing sheets be accepted by the Examiner. The drawings have been modified to conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 and to clarify the invention. No new subject matter has been added by way of the replacement of the drawing sheets.

#### **Specification**

The specification has been amended to reflect the changes made to Figure 3. No new subject matter has been added by way of the amendment to the specification.

#### **Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and 6.

Claims 4, 5, 9, and 10 have been amended to clarify the present invention. No new subject matter has been added by way of the claim amendments.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,696,974 (“Agrawal”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. In rejecting claims 1 and 6, Examiner asserts that Agrawal teaches a method for executing multiple functions, comprising: defining a second function in an inheritance relationship to said first function. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Agrawal discusses inheritance relationships of data types rather than inheritance relationships of functions. Specifically, Agrawal defines inheritance of types as all instances of the subtype are also instances of the type it inherits (col. 2, ll. 21-40; col. 3, ll. 20-27). Agrawal does not define inheritance of functions. In the pseudo-code (*Agrawal* col. 16, ll. 25-33, 46-64), Agrawal provides a method for creating a topological ordering of functions through the inheritance relationship *of the data types of the arguments* of the functions (*Agrawal* col. 16, ll. 3-24). Whereas the arguments of a function are the input variables into the function, the function itself defines the work done on those arguments. Thus, the inheritance relationship of the data types as discussed by Agrawal does not teach or suggest the inheritance relationship among functions, as asserted by the Examiner.

Further, Examiner asserts that Agrawal teaches or suggests an inheritance relationship with the call to *Order* in *CheckConsistency* (col. 16, ll. 46-64). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Agrawal has a return statement for the variable *Specificity*, which is required by the calling function (col. 16 ll. 26). By requiring this return statement, one skilled in the art appreciates that the call to “Order” in “CheckConsistency” is a simple call to a function and does not denote an inheritance relationship as asserted by Examiner (col. 16, ll. 46-64). Moreover, one property of inheritance is that a derived function has access to all nonprivate variables of the superfunctions (see page 8, ll. 12-16 of the instant specification). Thus, if Agrawal taught or suggested an inheritance relationship, which it does not, then the return statement for “Specificity” would not be required because access to the variable would be possible without returning the variable.

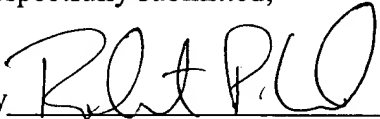
In view of the above, Agrawal fails to support the rejection of claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/099001).

Dated: March 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert P. Lord

Registration No.: 46,479

(713) 228-8600

(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Applicant requests that the Examiner replace Figures 1-8 as originally filed with the seven enclosed replacement sheets of drawings, which include Figures 1-8. The changes made to the figures include “Start” and “End” added to figures 2A, 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, and 8 for clarity. An “End” was also added to figure 6. With respect to figure 3, an arrow, leading to box 315, was moved to leading from box 355 to the arrow leading to 315. This was done to clarify the figure with respect to the specification. Furthermore, box 321 was also added to clarify the figure. With respect to figure 6, the arrow leading from box 620 was moved to lead directly to the box 610 for clarity. Applicant asserts that no new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Attachments: Seven replacement sheets

Seven annotated sheets showing changes